CSEPP Policy Paper 13

ELIMINATION OF DUAL EXERCISE TYPES

Section 3.2 of "Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program (CSEPP) Exercises" defines two types of federally-managed and evaluated CSEPP exercises: the Direction and Control Exercise (DCX) and the Full-Scale Exercise (FSX).

The DCX takes the place of a functional exercise or Army-style command post exercise in the CSEPP exercise program. A DCX is a scenario-driven exercise in which all Emergency Operating Centers (EOCs), communications, and automation links are evaluated.

The FSX tests the entire emergency response effort and evaluates the interaction of all components. It involves mobilization of all emergency service and response agencies, as well as the activation of communications centers and emergency facilities such as EOCs and command posts.

Prior CSEPP exercises demonstrated that a jurisdiction's extent-of-play depended more on the location of the participating community than the type of exercise. Specifically, jurisdictions within the Immediate Response Zone (IRZ) which were downwind of the plume responded at a Full-Scale Exercise level even during a Direction and Control Exercise.

In light of this phenomenon, the distinction between DCXs and FSXs is being eliminated. CSEPP federally-managed and evaluated exercises will now be called "CSEPP Exercises". Elimination of the DCX/FSX distinction will allow jurisdictions to play at a level comparable to the risk posed by the hypothetical plume. Jurisdictions in the path of the plume will, therefore, play at a FSX level, while those which are not affected by the plume will play at a DCX level and/or in a direct support capacity.

Exercise Co-Directors should plan for the demonstration of all objectives within each jurisdiction on a 4-year basis. The Co-Directors should meet this goal by negotiating long-term extent-of-play agreements with the installations and jurisdictions.

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